



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00pm, 11th September 2023, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paul McCabe**, presided.

Councillors Present: Mike Bray, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy and Eugene Cassidy

Councillors Present via Zoom: Sean Drew and Sarah Reilly

Apologies/absent: none

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Michael Murphy Technician

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating and Ann Monaghan

Apologies: Aaron Smith, Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th July 2023.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10th July 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Family of the late James Duff, Drumconrath and to his work colleagues as he recently retired as the GSS in the Kells Municipal District.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of lands by Section 183 Notice for Land Disposal of 0.0008Ha of land at Town Parks Kildalkey Road, Athboy Co. Meath to ESB Networks. The land is Zoned A2 – New residential.

The members agreed in principle to the disposal of lands on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive a proposal for a sculpture in Athboy.

Katie McCormack, Athboy Tidy Towns gave an update on the proposed sculpture for Athboy where funding had been received to develop a project involving the local and the Ukrainian community. The sculpture depicts a union of two lands and will be three meters in height which will be located in the community garden at the Trim Road junction. The members acknowledged the work of the Tidy Towns and the Ukrainian community on this joint project.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2022 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2022 on the proposed development will consist of a Play Park at the Fair Green, Railway Yard, Oldcastle, Co. Meath (P823003).

Thomas Lynch EE, Transportation gave an update on the proposed development. He advised that the Co-Op had raised a number of concerns around increased traffic and safety on the roads and surface water flooding. The members were



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advised that an assessment on the traffic will be carried out. With regard to the surface water flooding, members were advised that this is outside the site boundary line and will be looked at separately. It was noted that on the site that some foul was building up and the members were advised that this is a historic issue, and a maintenance plan will be put in place.

The members welcomed the proposed plan and said it would enhance this area as it has been derelict for a long time. They asked about the maintenance plan for the foul and surface water. They were advised that the manholes within the site will be lifted a number of times per year to keep clear. The members were advised that they have 6 weeks to make a decision on the Part 8.

5.3 Water Services

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Drumconrath Water Supply Scheme.

Gerry Boyle, SE and Paul Kelly, SEE, Water Services gave an update on the Drumconrath WSS and advised the members on the following:

- Uisce Éireann (UÉ) is working with Meath County Council to provide upgraded Water Infrastructure at Drumconrath as part of their Capital Investment Programme. A Part 8 has been submitted to the Council from Uisce Éireann with a contractor appointed in Q2 2024 and will take a 2-year construction period.
- Existing WTP currently serves 560 properties (1200 population), capacity of 1000m³/day and supplies 600m³/day to the village of Drumconrath and surrounding areas.
- Current Raw Water Sources are Lough Bracken & 2 x Boreholes adjacent to the WTP.
- The current WTP is not consistently able to maintain an adequate cryptosporidium barrier, with periodic boil water notices resulting.
- The existing access road to the WTP does not allow for safe entry and exit of HGVs to and from the WTP site.

The members were advised that the key objectives and solutions are as follows:

- To provide a more stable and higher quality raw water source for the WTP.
- To address the current water treatment process deficits.
- To improve the potable water supply resilience and reliability.
- To provide sufficient potable water capacity to serve the current and future demands of the Drumconrath region.



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- To improve the access arrangements at the WTP site.
- To cease the abstraction of water from Lough Bracken.
- Develop a new sustainable new groundwater source.
- Convey raw water to the existing WTP via a new rising main.
- Modify /Upgrade the WTP as necessary.

The members raised the following:

- What is the cost of the scheme? - Advised that funds are in place and will have a better idea of costs following the tender process.
- Will there be disruption on roads or road closures? – There will be no road closures, stop/go system will operate during construction.
- Will neighbouring lands cause any risks to the scheme – have been carrying out trial holes and tests over the last 2 years and no significant risks found.
- Enquired if Uisce Éireann will contribute towards the walk around Lough Bracken – Advised that the area will be enhanced with planting following works.
- Referred to locals who have their own wells and will the new scheme have an impact - advised that tests have been carried out with no impact.

The members raised concerns about other areas:

- Referred to the ongoing issue with surface and foul water in Rathcairn – advised that will follow up on the issue here.
- Advised that Kells anglers are objecting to planning applications as disputing the capacity of the WTP. Members were advised that a number of small upgrade schemes have taken place over the years which has increased the capacity to the Kells plant.
- Members referred to projects on hold due to objections made by the public and the impact this is having on delivering housing schemes.
- Members were advised that Water Services will make contact with Kells Anglers again to discuss their issues.

5.4 Transportation

- 5.4.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The report circulated in advance was noted.

5.5 Corporate Affairs and Governance



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5.5.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District.

The allocations circulated in advance were noted. The members were reminded to submit their completed applications by the end of September.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“How many people are on the housing list and how many are on the list for one, two and three bed accommodation in Kells Municipal District.”

Response:-

The table below set out the current housing demand by assessment of need for the Kells MD.

Municipal District	Area	NO.OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Kells MD	Athboy	118	59	41	11	7
	Carlanstown	40	13	20	6	1
	Carnaross	14	6	5	2	1
	Cortown	9	5	2	2	0
	Crossakiel	7	5	1	1	0
	Drumconrath	14	7	5	1	1
	Fordstown	2	1	1	0	0
	Kells	234	128	78	18	10
	Kilberry	8	2	6	0	0



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Kilmainhamwood	6	2	3	1	0
Meath Hill	1	1	0	0	0
Moynalty	15	7	6	2	0
Nobber	11	4	6	1	0
Oldcastle	39	23	10	5	1
Kells MD Total	518	263	184	50	21

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That Meath County Council review safety measures at Kilmainhamwood School and GAA grounds in the interest of pedestrian safety”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The request has been noted and the location will be assessed in the interest of pedestrian safety when the schools recommence in September. Additional advance warning signage and road markings will be considered where deemed necessary.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Cllr Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Cllr Eugene Cassidy**.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Eugene Cassidy

“Now that the greenway is opened in Wilkinstown for the Transportation section to provide an update on its proposals to reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety on the R162 in the village and enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the greenway.”



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Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The Transportation Section can confirm that they intend to request funding from the Department of Transport for 2024 to progress an R162 Wilkinstown Traffic Calming scheme.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Cllr Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Cllr Mike Bray**.

Cllr Cassidy said that this area has been prone to a lot of accidents over the years. He stated that a traffic count was carried out which saw on two days over 7k vehicles pass through the village. Cllr Cassidy requested that a letter issue to Minister Ryan asking that the department look favourably on this application when submitted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 30th June 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 30th June, 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.3 To note the draft minutes from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 6th July, 2023

The minutes were noted.

8.4 To note the Draft minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 7th July 2023.

The minutes were noted.



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9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

The following were raised:

- Referred to the upkeep of St Colmcille's House and requested that the OPW be invited to give an update.
- Referred to the N51/R154 junction in Athboy and where the corner site on the Trim road is for sale and has the council considered purchasing these lands to improve this junction.
- Referred to the road closure at Fordstown, where local residents were given very little notice of this – advised will review for future road closures.
- Seeking an update on the Kells Public Realm plan and the lands at Lloyd.
- Congratulations to all groups who took part in Heritage week.
- Seeking an update on the Forsa dispute – members were advised that their reps are not being responded to until the dispute is over. Members of the public can still submit reps.

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach